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## **Troy Named As A Preserve America Community By First Lady** City Now Eligible For Grant Funding From Federal Government

For Immediate Release  
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(July 11, 2005- TROY)- Mayor Harry J Tutunjian announced Monday that the City of Troy has been named by First Lady Laura Bush as the newest *Preserve America* community.

The *Preserve America* initiative is a new White House effort to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the Nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

"*Preserve America* communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "This new community designation program, combined with the *Preserve America* Presidential Awards and Federal support, provides strong incentives for continued preservation of our cultural and natural heritage resources. I commend you for your commitment to preserving an important part of our Nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors, and, most importantly, for children."

For being designated as a *Preserve America* community the City will receive national recognition and a host of other benefits ranging from the use of *Preserve America* logos to access of new grant money. The Bush Administration's fiscal year 2006 budget contains a request for \$12.5 million in grant funds for which communities meeting the *Preserve America* criteria will be eligible to apply. These matching fund grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 would go on a competitive basis to projects that preserve and use important historic resources for promotion of heritage tourism and other economic revitalization projects.

"The City of Troy takes great pride in its past, and this designation will come as no surprise to most of our residents," Tutunjian said. "We are excited for this wonderful opportunity, and thank the First Lady for having the vision for such a program. It is my sincere belief that by capitalizing on our past we will benefit our future in amazing ways."

Because of the designation, Tutunjian said Monday he will instruct the City's grant writer to search for funds that will fall under the auspices of *Preserve America* and benefit the entire community.

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“Clearly we have many unique opportunities in the City of Troy to use our historical resources for wonderful projects,” Tutunjian said, noting that last week the City Council gave approval to his administration to move forward and seek funding for a revitalized Riverfront Park, that will include a memorial to Uncle Sam Wilson. “This is another tool for us to seek these special opportunities, and strengthen our vital historical treasures.”

United States Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton said the City of Troy should be proud of the designation, and work to capitalize on its amazing past.

“You are pioneers in this initiative, which shows just how proud the people of Troy are of their city, State and their place in our Nation’s history,” Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton said. “Each community’s unique and diverse stories are part of the larger chapter of American heritage, culture and values. It is by visiting and experiencing these special places that we have an opportunity to touch the past, and can best understand how the past touches us.”

The Department of the Interior partners with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to administer the *Preserve America* Community program on behalf of the Office of the First Lady. For more information and updates on the initiative, please visit [www.PreserveAmerica.gov](http://www.PreserveAmerica.gov).